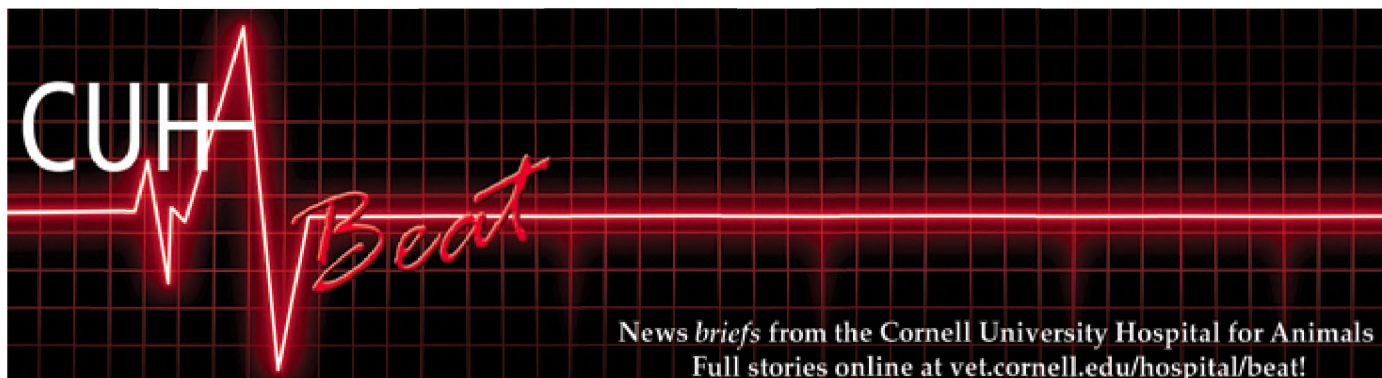


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New equine hospital to open this spring

Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine has signed a lease-buy agreement with Racebrook Capital Advisors, LLC for the former Ruffian Equine Medical Center to establish Cornell Ruffian Equine Specialists, a referral and emergency care hospital. The hospital, located near the Belmont Racetrack backstretch in Elmont, N.Y., is expected to open April 1, 2014, and will provide elective equine specialty services to horses referred by their attending veterinarians. Full emergency and critical care services will be offered by the Spring of 2015. Cornell Ruffian Equine Specialists will partner with referring veterinarians to meet the needs of New York State racing and the surrounding sport horse communities.

The 22,000 square-foot facility will provide state-of-the-art surgical, imaging, diagnostic, and rehabilitation services to enhance equine health. Dr. Alan Nixon, a renowned equine orthopedic surgeon and Director of the Comparative Orthopedics Laboratory, will serve as the Chief Medical Officer of Cornell Ruffian Equine Specialists. Drs. Lisa Fortier and Norm Ducharme, pioneers in regenerative and laryngeal procedures, will also offer advanced surgical procedures. The hospital will be staffed by Cornell University veterinarians and technicians and will offer a full complement of advanced orthopedic

 Horse Illustration

and soft tissue surgery and regenerative therapies, an internal medicine service, and a broad array of diagnostic modalities including advanced imaging such as MRI, CT, nuclear scintigraphy, high speed treadmill endoscopy, arthroscopy, and laboratory services.

"We are looking forward to joining the well-established horse-racing and sport horse communities in the area, adding value to veterinarians, trainers and owners in the region and supporting the critical equine industry in the State of New York," said Dr. Michael I. Kotlikoff, Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. "The hospital will be within walking distance of Belmont Park, recognized as one of the world's premiere Thoroughbred horse-racing facilities, and is easily accessible to the many sport horse enthusiasts located in and around the area. Our goals are to improve the health and safety of the equine athlete and by so doing to strengthen one of the world's premiere racing programs."

"This is an exciting initiative for Cornell," said Nixon. "Through the establishment of Cornell Ruffian Equine Specialists, Cornell will honor Ruffian's legacy. She established herself as one of the greatest racehorses to set foot on the track and is known as the perfect champion and a courageous filly. The new center will continue the sense of inspiration and achievement surrounding Ruffian, and we are eager to partner with the referring veterinarians to do so. We have multiple goals for our new hospital, all of which are patient-centered, client-responsive, and community-minded."

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Inside scoop

Full-service and New York State registered, the Cornell University Hospital for Animals pharmacy is here to help you and your clients, filling prescriptions* for patients of all referring licensed veterinarians as well as Cornell's clinicians. The on-site operation carries products specific to animal populations, many of which cannot be found in pharmacies that carry drugs to help people. Various products are compounded here, including capsules, oral suspensions, topical and ophthalmic preparations, and more. For clients who visit Cornell, they may pick up their prescriptions, which have been triple-checked for accuracy, at the end of the appointment. Our staff also stands ready to refill prescriptions phoned or emailed to Cornell and will safely and quickly ship the medicine anywhere in the United States.

Beyond preparing and dispensing drugs, Cornell's pharmacists share the latest findings regarding drug and drug/food interactions, help to set expectations regarding potential animal responses and side effects to various drugs, diligently monitor current events to avert drug shortages, and identify alternative options if a particular drug becomes unavailable or too expensive to be cost effective.

"We work hard to build relationships with our pharmaceutical representatives," said Pharmacy Director Mary Lynch and Pharmacist Robert Harris. "In addition, we are avid readers of industry literature, belong to professional societies, and are members of a national network of veterinary pharmacies designed to encourage collaboration and information sharing."

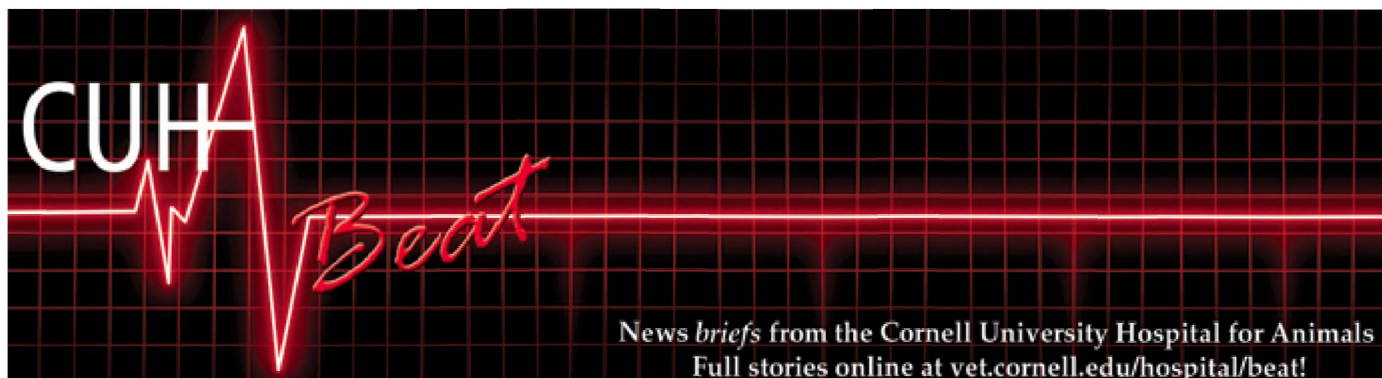
To realize their mission, Mary and Bob work hand-in-hand with a dedicated team that includes three staff pharmacists, five pharmacy technicians, and a limited number of students who help with the day-to-day operations of the pharmacy.

"The pharmacy is an integral part of CUHA's teaching mission," said Lynch. "Student workers gain a deeper understanding of pharmacotherapy, have additional opportunities to develop client communication skills, and experience first-hand a different facet of the veterinary profession."

To reach CUHA's pharmacy, please call 607.253.3231. The pharmacy is open weekdays from 8am to 6pm and Saturdays from 8am to noon.

* Controlled substances must be ordered by a Cornell veterinarian, and the patient must be a Cornell patient.

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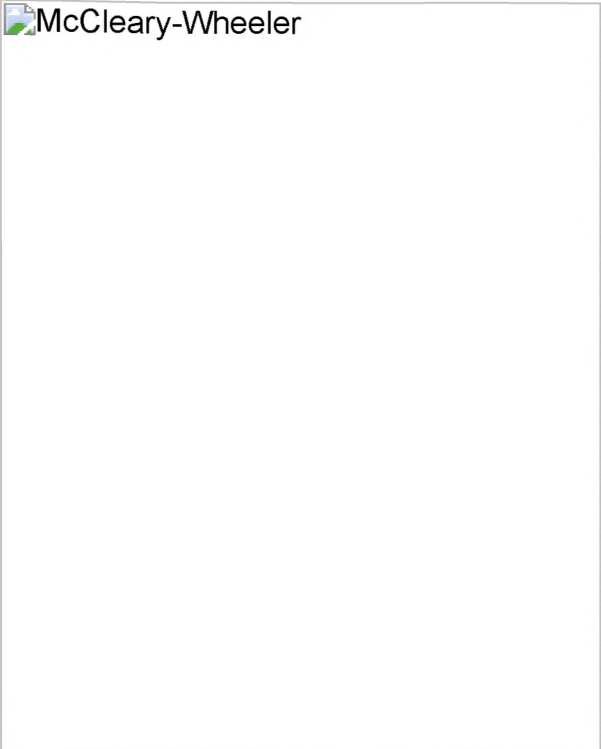
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Dr. Angela McCleary-Wheeler joins the team

Dr. Angela McCleary-Wheeler is the College's newest clinician-scientist. Driven to change the course of cancer's often devastating path, she has dedicated her investigative initiatives to understanding epigenetically based aberrations associated with Hedgehog signaling. The Hedgehog signaling pathway is important for normal developmental processes. Activation of this pathway, along with its effector proteins, the GLIs, is important for the regulation of cell growth and survival.

"I am interested in investigating the epigenetic mechanisms underlying the regulation and expression of the Hedgehog-GLI pathway, an important signaling pathway involved in the pathogenesis of multiple malignancies," said Dr. McCleary-Wheeler, who noted that although various tumors in people

McCleary-Wheeler

have been linked to dysfunction with the Hedgehog signaling pathway, far less is known about its role in the development of cancer in companion animals. "In cases where the pathway is associated with tumor development, we believe that the pathway is either reactivated or the effector proteins in this pathway are regulated independent of their canonical signaling. We need to understand more fully what is happening at the cellular and biochemical levels to help patients in the clinic with effective diagnostics and novel therapies."

While most of her time at Cornell will be spent launching her research program, Dr. McCleary-Wheeler also looks forward to working in the oncology service at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals where she will once again have the opportunity to connect with clients and patients and help prepare veterinary students in the ever-evolving field of oncology. She is board-certified by the ACVIM in medical oncology.

"Many of the insights that guide my research come from observations made in the clinic," said Dr. McCleary-

Wheeler, who chose Cornell because of its well-established research program and the gathering of clinician-scientists already here. "During our work with patients, we have access to clues that might unravel some aspect of cancer -- how it forms, how it grows, how we can regulate or intervene. These insights often take us in new and pivotal directions."

Dr. McCleary-Wheeler comes to Cornell after completing her thesis work for a PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology at the Mayo Clinic Graduate School. While there, she studied pancreatic cancer in people, a condition which is uncommon in animals, although she expects to continue her study in that area as well as introducing the new program in epigenetics and Hedgehog signaling. She was accepted at the Mayo Clinic after completing a veterinary medical oncology residency at North Carolina State, a small animal medicine and surgery internship at the University of Missouri, and earning her veterinary degree from Iowa State University. Dr. McCleary-Wheeler is a member of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

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Clinical trial will investigate hip and elbow dysplasia

 Black Russian Terriers

Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine invites Black Russian Terriers to participate in a genetic study that will improve the health and well-being of these dogs. The results of the study will hopefully lead to the development of a genetic test designed to provide breeders with the information they need to effectively reduce the incidence of hip and elbow dysplasia in this breed. To participate, please call

607-253-3060 and ask to speak with Susan Garrison or email your interest to biobank@cornell.edu.

Hip and elbow dysplasia are inherited developmental malformations that result in painful and debilitating arthritis. In its most severe forms, these two dysplasias cause crippling lameness especially when they occur together in the same dog. Led by Dr. Rory Todhunter, who has devoted his scientific explorations to understanding and eliminating hip and elbow dysplasia in dogs, Cornell has developed a patented method of assessing hips for dysplasia and identified marker tests for hip dysplasia in several other breeds. The data obtained through this study will allow the Cornell team to develop a test that will predict the risk of developing hip and elbow dysplasia in Black Russian Terriers immediately after birth.

To support this study, please submit a blood sample to the Cornell Veterinary Biobank, along with the OFA hip and elbow reports. Eligible Black Russian Terriers must be 2 years old or older. We will work with the OFA to obtain additional measurements on the radiographs of your dog.

"If we can help lower the incidence of hip and elbow dysplasia in the Black Russian Terrier gene pool, it will make a huge impact on the health of the breed," said Dr. Marta Castelhana, principal investigator of the study and research associate in medical genetics. "This study will provide the knowledge and tools that we need to stop propagating genes that diminish the quality of life for future generations of this breed."

For more information, please contact Mrs. Susan Garrison at biobank@cornell.edu.

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Collaborative care and a resilient cria

Sabrina was born septic in October, but after a two-day visit to the Cornell University Hospital for Animals, she seemed to be on her way to recovery. Mid-December, though, she became so bloated and painful that she needed emergency care. The radiographs and CT taken of Sabrina revealed an extremely rare condition in alpacas called a diaphragmatic hernia. Thanks to the detailed images the CT provided CUHA clinicians were able to tell that it was Sabrina's second compartment (C2) which was caught in the hole and that she needed surgery, during which approximately 1/3 of Sabrina's C2 was removed. Sabrina is a little fighter and after lots of nursing care and adjusting her diet in collaboration with Sabrina's owners, the weight loss was reversed and she returned home later that month.

Thanks to a combination of effort, dedication, hope, and love from the owners and a lot of hard work from clinicians and staff in multiple sections of Cornell's Equine and Nemo Farm Animal Hospitals, including Large Animal Surgery and Medicine, Anesthesia, and Imaging, Sabrina is off to a great start in 2014.

 Sabrina

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Train the Trainer: Veterinary Diagnostics June 2-3, 2014

Introduction

Join the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and the faculty of the Animal Health Diagnostic Center at the **Train the Trainer: Veterinary Diagnostics** course.

This day-and-a-half course was designed for veterinary technicians, veterinary technician faculty, and other veterinary mentors to provide a comprehensive review of appropriate sample collection and handling procedures. Lectures and optional hands-on laboratories will cover special sampling protocols, tips and tricks for collecting appropriate samples from clinical cases, and will discuss shipping procedures that ensure compliance with regulations and public safety. Discussion of common sampling and submission errors will be included to help optimize timely and accurate veterinary diagnostic results from full-service diagnostic laboratories.

Fees

The fee for this course before May 16 is \$300 and includes one-and-a-half days of continuing education (10.5 hours of CE credit), 1 USB of the proceedings, 1 dinner, 2 continental breakfasts, lunch on Monday, a tour of the new NYS Diagnostic Laboratory on Monday, and a certificate of completion.

Optional Sessions

We are offering optional laboratories on Tuesday afternoon. Receive an additional 3 hours of CE by attending either the parasitology or clinical pathology laboratory. The parasitology lab will cover endoparasitology and ectoparasitology, and the clinical pathology lab will cover urinalysis and hematology. Your lab choice is \$75 and limited to 1-0 participants. You must complete the original course to participate in a lab on Tuesday afternoon. Lunch will be included.

Attendance is limited. Save \$50 by registering early. [Register Online Now!](#)